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Duxbury Clipper

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Clipper visits: Friend Weiler

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CLIPPER INTERN

Detective Friend Weiler is no stranger to being a Duxbury High School student, but he said one major thing has changed since he attended DHS: pressure.

"Kids grow up a lot faster now," he said. "Duxbury is still really successful with sports and academics but now there is more pressure and kids experiment at younger ages."

Weiler is the school resource officer and juvenile detective with the Duxbury Police Department, and he said being in the schools is one of the best parts of his job.

"I enjoy working with kids, I like hearing their feedback. I'm the liaison between the department and the kids," he said.

Police Chief Mark DeLuca said Weiler is a great resource for the school and the department.

"He is in the position to develop a strong rapport with the school and students. When we want to give the kids information or need information about things that happen, he's great for that," DeLuca said. "He has his finger on the pulse of the school."

Weiler has an office in the high school, but also talks to students at the middle school and Chandler. He teaches the "healthy choices" or drug education class to the fifth graders, and the dating violence prevention class to the eighth



Det. Friend Weiler is the Duxbury school resource officer and juvenile detective. Weiler's job involves drug and dating violence prevention, as well as teaching classes at the middle school and elementary school level. Police Chief Mark DeLuca calls him a great resource for the community.

grade. At Chandler School, Weiler talks to the students about stranger danger and bullying.

ships, covering date rape and indecent assault.

Weiler was not fazed by returning to his hometown po-

"I'm in the classroom, I'm coaching. In the beginning when I would be in the cafeteria, the kids would look at me and wonder why the cops were here, now I'm seen as part of the school."

"My office is in the high school because there is definitely more of a need there," he said. Weiler comes into gym classes to teach a class called "sex and the law." He said it's about how the law pertains to personal relation-

lice department in 1995 after graduating from Connecticut College.

"I love the community, I grew up here, it's a great place to grow up and I have a lot of good memories."

He said Chief DeLuca has

always been supportive of his proposals, whether it be coaching the girls ice hockey team or getting involved in other facets of the community.

"I'm in the classroom, I'm coaching. In the beginning when I would be in the cafeteria, the kids would look at me and wonder why the cops were here, now I'm seen as part of the school," said Weiler. DeLuca said the students have really embraced Weiler's presence.

As the school resource officer, Weiler said parents often ask for advice about their children, and he said he draws on his own experiences being a father of three young boys. "I try to tell parents to be parents and not friends," he said. "It's about setting limits and staying on top of your kids, because if you give them an inch, they'll keep going with it."

Weiler said the hardest thing about his job is when kids don't learn their lesson. "The juvenile justice system is set up to give kids a break and when they still don't change their actions it saddens me to see them continue to make bad decisions."

He also said it is especially hard to see a high school kid lose a friend or a loved one. "With the tragedies this year, the car accidents, the hardest part is to see anyone lose a loved one, regardless of age or the circumstances."

Despite the rough year, Weiler said he has a great

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Weiler's presence felt in schools

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working relationship with the school and that they both have the same ultimate goal: to keep the kids safe. He said that he'd like to think that he makes a difference in the school community. "I want to be seen as another resource...and connect with them."

DeLuca said Weiler takes his job very seriously, but is always open-minded and outgoing.

In addition to all of his responsibilities and commitments at the school, Weiler is still the juvenile detective at the department. Any crime that involves a person of age 16 or under, whether they be the victim or perpetrator, Weiler is assigned to the case. Crimes can range from sexual assault to vandalism.

As busy as he is, Weiler said someday he hopes to take on more responsibility and be-



In addition to his duties with the police department, Weiler is also the girls ice hockey coach.

come a chief. "No offense to Chief DeLuca, but he won't be around forever and has to retire at some point," Weiler said, smiling.

Weiler is 36 years old and lives in Sandwich with his wife, Deirdre, a lawyer at Galvin and Galvin in Duxbury.

The two went to high school together but did not become a couple until after graduation. They have three boys, Friend III, 6, Luke, 3, and Cormac, 2 ½. Weiler said that someday he would like to move back to Duxbury.